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Wilson, W. *Constitutional Government in the United States.* Pp. 236.

Price, \$1.50. New York: Columbia University Press, 1908.

Reserved for later notice.

Wood, H. A. W. *Money Hunger.* Pp. 144. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908.

After pointing out that at present there is no established basis for business ethics, and that the home, the church, the schools and the newspapers fail to supply any standard, the author devotes three chapters to a discussion of the responsibility of the press for present conditions of commercial immorality. He holds that these conditions are due largely to the failure of the press to measure up to its opportunities. The book is a protest against the abuses of competitive business, and, while it lacks the periods of Ruskin and the thunderings of Carlyle, it is nevertheless well done. The remedy advanced by the author for the conditions is an increased personal honesty, but he proposes no scheme for securing this honesty. The viewpoint of the book is distinctly ethical, set off by touches of innocent ignorance concerning the operation of economic forces.

REVIEWS.

Dunning, W. A. *Reconstruction—Political and Economic, 1865-1877.* Pp. 378. Price, \$2.00. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1907.

This volume was written as part of the American Nation Series, published under the editorial direction of Albert Bushnell Hart, of Harvard University. In his work entitled "Essays on the Civil War and Reconstruction," Dr. Dunning gave to students of American history a new outlook upon a period of our national development which has been so generally neglected, but which is fraught with lessons of the deepest import.

In the present work on the political and economic aspects of reconstruction, Dr. Dunning has more than fulfilled the promise of his earlier work. It is, in many respects, the best piece of historical writing that we have had during the last decade. His analysis of the economic, social and political conditions prevailing during the period between 1865 and 1877 gives to the reader a clear picture of the extraordinary situation that confronted the country. Although we are but a quarter of a century removed from the reconstruction era, it seems very much further from us, both in thought and feeling, than the earlier decades of the nineteenth century. The author has interpreted the spirit of this epoch far more successfully than any other historian who has heretofore attempted the task.

In his treatment of the subject the author has adhered steadfastly to the basic facts and the most important tendencies. In this respect he has shown great self-control, inasmuch as most writers on this period give more attention to the formation and methods of the Ku-Klux Klan, and the other devices resorted to for the purpose of intimidating the negro than to the really fundamental social and political problems.

An easy style, together with a remarkable power of concise statement have enabled the author to bring within the compass of a comparatively small volume a thoroughly adequate treatment of the most important constitutional epoch in American history. No one can hope to secure a true perspective of the development of the American nation without a careful study of Prof. Dunning's admirable work.

L. S. ROWE.

University of Pennsylvania.

Hanotaux, Gabriel. *Contemporary France (1870-1900)*. Vol. III. Pp. ix, 634. Price, \$3.75. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1907.

The present form of government in France has been in existence for nearly forty years. In 1830 Tallyrand, on taking the oath to the constitution of the July monarchy, boasted that it was the thirteenth. Between 1830 and 1870 France was successively a monarchy, a republic and an empire, and since 1870 a republic again. The Third Republic has, therefore, by comparison at least, much that speaks for permanency and durability. Yet, as M. Hanotaux points out, it was the result of compromise, not of deliberate effort, on the part of the assembly that called it into existence. "Do not seek for the principles which guided us," declared the man of the National Assembly, which, though elected in 1871, dared not finally establish a republican government in France till 1875. "Chance alone was our master." The present volume of M. Hanotaux's able work deals almost exclusively with the establishment of the Republic in its final form, with the gradual development of the constitution and its interpretation, its "theory" as the translator puts it. The author's personal interest centers with much fondness in the Assembly which gave final shape to the republican government of France. "The Assembly," he writes, was "great less for what it achieved than for what it outlined, for what it did than for what it planned." Nevertheless, like Thiers, "It deserved well of its country." With the constitution as it was fully adopted none of the members of the Assembly were satisfied; all had "resigned themselves." In doing so they were not unmindful of the fact that across the ocean "another Republican constitution had been born under circumstances quite as difficult and doubtful."

With respect to the deeper forces that wrought a successful government for France, the author eloquently says, "The Constitution of 1875 was not the work of one man, neither was it elaborated in one day. It had lain within the bosom of France for nearly a century. . . . All the progress of France within the last hundred years had been toward one object: to organize popular sovereignty in a free country, with a controlled government. This ideal was that of the nation from the day when it became disgusted with kings."

Not much space is allotted to economic and social history. The social question, the Labor Congress in Paris, the press, municipal organization, and educational questions are treated as they appear reflected in the Assembly, where the absorbing interest is, of course, political. Indeed, on the one hand,